Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Ink~~ An ink jet printhead comprising:

a driving and encoding circuit ~~(20)~~ having a grid-like structure including a plurality of inputs ~~(23)~~ and a plurality of selecting elements ~~(12)~~,

a plurality of actuating elements ~~(11)~~ associated with said driving and encoding circuit, ~~(20) and~~ suitable for being selectively addressed and commanded by said selecting elements ~~(12)~~ in response to ~~given~~ at least one command ~~signals~~ signal received through said plurality of inputs ~~(23)~~, so as to cause the ejection of ink droplets from said ink jet printhead,

and at least one identifying element ~~(21)~~ of said ink jet printhead,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of said identifying elements ~~(21)~~ of said ink jet printhead is associated with a corresponding selecting element ~~(12)~~ of said driving and encoding circuit ~~(20),~~ to be selectively addressed and identified in response to at least one corresponding identifying ~~signals~~ signal received through said plurality of inputs ~~(23)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Ink~~ The ink jet printhead according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said plurality of actuating elements ~~(11)~~ and each of said identifying elements ~~(21)~~ are suitable for being sounded through at least one corresponding ~~control signals~~ command signal received through said plurality of inputs ~~(23),~~ during a preliminary checking step, the purpose of which is to identify said ink jet printhead and to confirm the correct operation of said actuating elements ~~(11)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Printhead~~ The ink jet printhead according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said actuating elements ~~(11)~~ are resistors and said ink jet printhead is of the thermal~~,~~ bubble type for activating the ejection of said ink droplets.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Head~~ The ink jet printhead according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said identifying elements ~~(21)~~ are made of a plurality of resistors, each ~~one~~ resistor having a resistivity that has been selectively set during ~~the~~ a manufacturing process of said ink jet printhead, depending on its characteristics.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Head~~ The ink jet printhead according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said identifying elements ~~(21)~~ occupy positions of the ~~grid~~ grid-like structure that are located in correspondence with nozzles ~~(31)~~ not used for printing.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Ink~~ An ink jet printhead comprising:

a driving and encoding circuit ~~(20)~~ having a grid-like structure and including a plurality of inputs ~~(23)~~, a plurality of selecting elements ~~(12)~~, ~~and~~ a plurality of actuating elements ~~(11)~~ suitable for being selectively addressed and commanded by said selecting elements ~~(12)~~ in response to ~~given~~ at least one command ~~signals~~ signal received through said plurality of inputs ~~(23),~~ so as to cause the ejection of ink droplets from said ink jet printhead, and at least one identifying element ~~(21)~~ of said ink jet printhead,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein each of said identifying elements ~~(21)~~ of said ink jet printhead is associated with a corresponding selecting element ~~(12)~~ of said driving and

encoding circuit ~~(20),~~ for being selectively addressed and identified in response to at least one corresponding identifying ~~signals~~ signal received through said plurality of inputs ~~(23)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Integrated~~ An integrated ink jet printhead comprising:

a plurality of actuating elements ~~(11)~~ for causing ~~the~~ ejection of ink droplets from said ink jet printhead, a driving and encoding circuit ~~(20),~~ having a grid-like structure, for selectively addressing and commanding each of said actuating elements ~~(11)~~, said grid-like structure being organized into rows and columns that define a plurality of nodes corresponding to said actuating ~~means~~ elements, and one or more identifying elements ~~(21)~~ of said ~~head~~ ink jet printhead,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein said one or more identifying elements ~~(21)~~ of said ~~head~~ ink jet printhead correspond to nodes arranged~~, one behind the other,~~ along a given row or column of said grid-like structure, and ~~in that~~ further wherein said one or more identifying elements ~~(21)~~ are also provided for being scanned, together with said actuating elements ~~(11)~~, during a preliminary checking step, the purposes of which are both to identify said ink jet printhead and to confirm correct operation of said actuating elements ~~(11)~~.